

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEVILL 00302 061537Z
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02
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O 061315Z JUL 77 ZFF-4
FM AMCONSUL SEVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2367
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BARCELONA
AMCONSUL BILBAO

UNCLAS SEVILLE 0302

FOR H AND SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CDES, SP (GARTLAND, MARY R)
SUBJ: DEATH OF MARY R. GARTLAND

REF: STATE 155230 (NOTAL), SEVILLE 0298 (NOTAL),
SEVILLE 0291 (NOTAL)

1. CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL J. HARRINGTON INTERESTED.
2. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, PAR 4 BELOW PROVIDES TEXT OF DIRECT RELAY CABLE SENT JULY 6, 1977 TO NOK OF MARY R. GARTLAND, SUBJECT OF REFTELS AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE FIRST USCIT FATALITY IN SEVILLE AS RESULT OF PURSE-SNATCHER ATTACK. AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS POST COMMUNICATIONS, PURSE SNATCHING IS CRIME ENDEMIC TO THIS CITY AND NOW APPEARS ON DRAMATIC RISE AS RESULT OF THIS YEAR'S INCREASED INFLUX OF TOURISTS FROM ABROAD. POST'S OWN INFORMAL INDEX OF MEASURING THIS UPWARD TREND IS BASED ON CONCOMITANT RISE IN RESULTANT STOLEN PASSPORTS AND PROTECTION CASES (STOLEN FUNDS, MINOR INJURIES, ETC.).
3. WE HAVE MADE PREVIOUS BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS IN COLLABORA-
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TION WITH OUR CONSULAR CORPS COLLEAGUES TO WARN AMERICANS THROUGH NOTICES PROVIDED HOTELS WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN TO TRAVELERS AS THEY CHECKED IN. WE BELIEVE HOTELS WERE SIMPLY RELUCTANT TO PASS THEM OUT. MORE RECENTLY (APRIL 5) PO ACCOMPANIED BY SMALL DELEGATION OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS CALLED ON CIVIL GOVERNOR AND DELIVERED LETTER OUTLINING OUR CONCERN OVER INCREASED DANGERS TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE. POLICE AND JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES HERE ARE

WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM, BUT THUS FAR HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO MUCH ABOUT IT. THIS MOST RECENT AND TRAGIC INCIDENT APPEARS TO HAVE SERVED AS SOMETHING OF CATALYST FOR ACTION AMONG CONCERNED ELEMENTS, INCLUDING HOTEL AND TOUR DIRECTORS AS WELL AS POLICE AND CIVIL ORDER AUTHORITIES. WE HOPE TO TAKENADVANTAGE OF THIS RENEWED CONCERN TO EFFECT SOME PROCEDURES PROVIDING ADVANCE WARNING TO USCITS WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

4. QUOTE:

TO: MRS. CHESTER J. GARTLAND
42 MEMORIAL DRIVE
SALEM, MASS. 01970
TEL: (617) 744-0716

1. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE TRAGIC DEATH OF MRS. MARY RING GARTLAND WHO DID NOT SURVIVE SURGERY FOLLOWING THE INJURIES INCURRED SEVERAL DAYS PREVIOUSLY. WE UNDERSTAND YOU ARE ALREADY INFORMED REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH OCCASIONED THIS TRAGEDY. YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT THE SPANISH REGIONAL CHIEF OF POLICE PAID A PERSONAL CALL AT THIS CONSULATE GENERAL TO EXPRESS HIS EXTREME PERSONAL REGRT AND DECLARE HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRAGEDY. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT LOCAL POLICE, HOTEL, AND TOURISM AUTHORITIES ARE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT TAKING MORE SERIOUS AND STRINGENT ACTION TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM AND THEREBY PROVIDE A SAFER CLIMATE FOR ALL VISITORS AND INHABITANTS, AMERICANS AND NON AMERICANS ALIKE.
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ALTHOUGH THIS IS NO RECOMPENSE FOR YOUR TRAGIC LOSS, WE WOULD WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IT NEVERTHELESS MAY BRING ABOUT SALUTARY AND POSITIVE INITIATIVES TO MAKE THIS CITY A SAFER PLACE FOR EVERYBODY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT YOU WILL BE SENDING 2500 DOLS THROUGH ITS CHANNELS TO COVER PREPARATION AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES. WE HAVE INFORMED AUTHORITIES HERE WHO ASSURE US ON THAT BASIS THEY WILL EXPEDITE PROCEDURES AS BEST THEY CAN TO MEET THE FOLLOWING FLIGHT SCHEDULE: MRS. GARTLAND S REMAINS WILL DEPART SEVILLE THIS EVENING JULY 6 AT 9:10 P.M. FOR MADRID WHERE THEY WILL BE TRANSHIPPED TO NEW YORK ABOARD FLIGHT IB-951 ARRIVING NEW YORK JULY 7 AND 3:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. THEY WILL THEN BE TRANSFERRED SAME DAY ABOARD AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 845 TO ARRIVE BOSTON AT 10:00 PM. LOCAL TIME.

3. THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY MRS. GARTLAND'S PERSONAL EFFECTS AND WILL WRITE YOU CONCERNING THEIR DISPOSTION AS WELL AS OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

4. AGAIN, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THIS OCCASION OF YOUR TRAGIC LOSS. UNQUOTE.FOUHE

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Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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